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HOME FOOD SUPPLY FOR VICTORY

ROLL CALL FOR ALL RURAL WOMEN

MARCH 1 to 20, 1943

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAMPAIGN PLANS

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Farm Women and Victory

In the front lines of war service today are 6 million farm women. On their shoulders rests a great responsibility for farm victory in 1943. They are filling the gap left on the farm by sons who have been called into the fighting forces. Thousands of them have put on overalls and are working in the fields, side by side with their husbands. Thousands of them are shouldering the responsibility of leadership in the tremendous task of operating their farms under the rigors of wartime conditions. On their shoulders, too, rests the job of supplying the family larder for next winter with food grown on the farm.

The purpose of the Home Food Supply for Victory Program is to enroll all rural women, those on the farms and those in surrounding towns and villages, in an effort to assure all families in rural areas of an abundance of nutritious food this summer, next fall, and next winter. I hope that every woman in every rural community will answer the Roll Call for Rural Women.

Director of Extension Work

M.L. Wilson

United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Extension Service

#### FOOD ON THE HOME FRONT

Patriotism, prudence, and protection of health demand that every farm family answer the roll call this spring and pledge to produce and preserve for home consumption as much of the family's yearly food supply as possible. Thereby the family will be assured of adequate supplies of food, particularly the health-maintaining foods — milk, eggs, poultry, meat, vegetables, and fruits. This will help to relieve the strain on our stocks of foods and will increase the share that can be shipped to our armed forces and our allies. Food truly is a weapon in this war. A fourth or more of our total commercial food production will be required for our military and naval forces. One-half of the 1943 prospective commercial pack of vegetables will be taken by the Government.

Let us set the goals high. Let us strive to produce on every farm a ton of food a year for every person on that farm. Included should be from 100 to 125 quarts of fruits and vegetables for each person and dried beans and peas, pit- or cellar-stored potatoes, squash, turnips, carrots and beets, apples and pears enough for the year. Sufficient poultry, eggs, and milk should be produced to fully supply the family, while fresh and smoked meats within the rationing limits, likewise, ought to be produced on the farm. If there ever was a year when farm-home storage shelves, cellar, and pits should be filled with home produced and preserved foods, this is the year.

The farm home front already has made a great contribution to Victory. The heroic efforts of our farm women, despite labor shortage and other handicaps, helped much in producing last year's record amounts of food. We are sure that our rural women will meet the even greater challenge of 1943, to produce food for the Nation's needs. We know that throughout the country our rural women will respond to the Roll Call and join the Home Food supply for Victory Program. Then their families will be assured of sufficient amounts and veriety of nutritious food. Our armed forces, our allies, our whole Nation will benefit.

Chief, Division of Field Coordination

4w. Hochbaum

### HOME FOOD SUPPLY FOR VICTORY CAMPAIGN

March 1 to 20, 1943

The calendar of events for the special campaign on Home Food Supply for Victory: Roll Call for All Rural Women was sent to the States with a letter of explanation dated January 20, 1943. The letter stated that additional suggestions would be sent to State extension directors and leaders. It is to be expected that the period March 1 to 20 for the special home demonstration efforts will fit into any longer-time Victory Garden or Home Food Supply campaign that any State might have under way. The following suggestions may be adapted to meet situations and possibilities.

## Roll Call for All Rural Women

March 1 to 7, 1943

## Press and Radio Releases

Campaign announcement in press and on radio March 1 or earlier. Press statements by Governor, State extension director, State home demonstration leader, and others. News over radio throughout week. Radio talks by farm women who have been successful in producing the home food supply could be featured during the week.

## Home Demonstration and Other Rural Meetings

- l. That the Food Supply for Victory be featured at all rural meetings during the period March 1 to 7, is suggested. Home demonstration clubs, farmers' organizations, civic, church, and educational groups might conduct special programs. It is urged that as many home demonstration clubs as possible meet during the week of March 1 to 7. The Roll Call of All Rural Women should be made at all home demonstration meetings and with other groups of rural women meeting during that week.
- 2. It is suggested that each State prepare its own enrollment or pledge card. (Suggested form follows.) Each woman will sign the card in response to Roll Call at meetings during the week or Roll Call may be made by each woman stating how much of the family food supply for 1943 will be produced and conserved at home. A record of the latter type of Roll Call should be kept by the secretary of the club. All enrollment records or pledge cards are to be sent to the county extension office.

# HOME FOOD SUPPLY FOR VICTORY ROLL CALL FOR ALL RURAL WOMEN

Suggested form for enrollemnt or pledge card

Production Check Farm - Back yard

Vegetable gardens

Fruit

Poultry

Dairy

Meat

Conservation

Canning

Drying

Storing

Freezer locker

Other information desired

Reverse side of card

3. Points might be emphasized in presentation or discussions at meetings:

Serious food situation. Increased food supply needed for our armed forces, our industrial workers, our allies, and our families working hard on the home front.

Adequate amount and variety to feed the family with a minimum use of commercial products and transportation facilities. Use State food supply plans with adjustments to comply with rationing regulations.

Victory Gardens planned so that varieties of garden products will meet commercial shortages.

Adequate protein supply as necessitated by meat rationing and the milk shortage in some localities. Can the home poultry flock be increased for meat and eggs?

Advance plans for home and community food preservation considering available equipment and facilities. Supplies of fruits and vegetables available to small town and village for canning might be considered.

Suggestions for checking on adequate and suitable storage facilities.

Reports on successful 1942 Victory Gardens and food preservation.

## Exhibits for Roll Call Week

Exhibits in store windows, libraries, and other public centers can be effective in forwarding the Roll Call. Basic material for this might well be the Little Nutrition Exhibits issued by Extension Service last year. Printed copies of these exhibits suitable for mounting may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 25 cents a complete set of 5 sheets.

## Recognition Suggestions

In 1942 some States scored the production and conservation records of individual families who signed the enrollment or pledge cards. This is done according to a score card worked out on the basis of the State home food supply budget. A certificate is awarded if a certain number of points are scored. The harvest festivals and achievement-day programs in the fall are appropriate occasions for awarding the high-scoring families or for some other form of special recognition.

A suggestion has been made that the women who enroll in the Home Food Supply for Victory Program be given a window or gate card or some other form of identification.

#### Other Promotion Suggestions

Other suggestions for promoting the Roll Call, including news, radio, exhibits and meetings, can be obtained from the 4-H Mobilization Week Menual already sent to State and county extension workers. A special information manual giving home food production suggestions and promotional ideas is being prepared and will be sent to State and county extension workers by March 1.

### County Plan for Neighborhood Leaders

## February 15 to March 1

1. Letter to neighborhood leaders announcing plan for Roll Call for All Rural Women. Emphasize critical situation as to food supply, and the great need for urging every rural family to help the situation by producing as much as possible of its family food supply. Show how this ties in with food preservation plans already made.

2. County home demonstration agents urge members of home demonstration clubs who have been trained in food production and preservation to volunteer to assist neighborhood leaders in forwarding home food production, and so inform neighborhood leaders.

## March 1

Request neighborhood leaders to attend a training meeting (township, community, or other basis), if transportation facilities permit.

## March 7 to 11

- 1. Hold neighborhood leader training meetings. Instruction given by extension agents or project leaders. Present statistics as to volume of food needed within county, and increased amount of food that could be produced locally.
- 2. Translate increased home food production in terms of cans of commercial foods available for civilians under rationing.
- 3. Distribute timely information on recommended varieties for local use, amounts needed for the individual family, planting schedules, cultivation practices, availability of needed supplies, etc. All-season production should be the aim.
- 4. Discuss food-preservation situation and check on equipment.
- 5. Discuss plans for neighborhood leader reports.
- 6. Give neighborhood leaders "Leave at home" materials for distribution to neighbors.

Brief statement on seriousness of food situation and vital need of farm families to produce the family food supply,

Production recommendations for family food supply: Garden, poultry, small fruits and berries, dairy products, meats.

Recommended varieties.

Timely food conservation suggestions: Storage, canning, drying, etc.

Check up on equipment needs.

## March 11 to 20

Neighborhood leaders make contacts with neighbors to:

Stress critical situation.

Urge family to grow own food supply and to sign enrollment. Explain "leave at home" materials and leave with families. Offer further help if needed.

Inform neighbors of available aid from project leaders.

For information regarding production and conservation, refer to county extension agents

List questions asked by families and send to county extension office.

## Urban and Suburban Possibilities

- 1. "Food Production is War Production." Publicity indicating need and making special appeal should be directed toward urban and suburban people.
- 2. Town and suburban dwellers who have sufficient open, sunny space and fertile ground should be urged to grow food for home consumption, especially vegetables and small fruits. Where practicable, poultry and rabbit raising should be encouraged.
- 3. Where conditions warrant, on the outskirts of cities or on available industrial property, community plots or allotment gardens (30 by 50 feet or larger) should be planned.
  - 4. Possibilities for community canning centers should be considered.
- 5. There is great need for school lunch gardens. Plots should be large enough to yield the maximum amount of needed vegetables. If the gardens are cared for by children, they should be so planned as to be of educational value.
- 6. Urban and suburban people should be advised of available sources of subject-matter materials, and that extension agents will aid urban and suburban groups in their organizing efforts.

# References - Federal Publications

## General

Produce for Victory. Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture. Address, 1943 Food Production Program Meetings. (Mimeographed).

The Farm Woman's Part in War. Grover B. Hill, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Address at Meeting of National Home Demonstration Council, October 30, 1942. (Mimeographed.)

Home Food Supply Production Goals. M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work. Address at Regional 1943 Food Production Program Mestings. (Mineographed.)

Feed A Fighter in 1943. Z. L. Galloway, Economics Section. Extension Service Circular No. 401. (Mimeographed.)

The 1943 Victory Garden Program. H. W. Hochbaum, Chairman, U.S.D.A. Committee on Victory Gardens. (Mimeographed.)

- U. S. Department of Agriculture Campaign Food for Freedom 1943. (Mimeographed.)
- U. S. Government Campaigns to Promote the Production, Sharing, and Proper Use of Food. Prepared by Bureau of Campaigns, Office of War Information. January 1943. (Mineographed.)
- Handbook for Leaders The Victory Garden Campaign. Bureau of Campaigns, Office of War Information. (To be made available later.)
- Information Handbook on Home Food Production. Extension Service Circular. (Mineographed to be made available later.)

More Food Through Conservation Farming. Farmers' Bulletin 1909.

Be A Victory Planner In Your Home. Folder. Bureau of Home Economics and Consumers' Counsel Division.

Serve On The Home Front. Folder. Bureau of Home Economics.

Fight Food Waste In The Home. Folder. Bureau of Home Economics.

#### Gardens

The Farm Garden. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1673.

The City Home Garden. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1044.

The Home Fruit Garden. Leaflet No. 218.

Vegetable Varieties of Soybeans. Bureau of Plant Industry. (Mimeographed.)

#### Poultry

Poultry Keeping In Back Yards. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1508.

Farm Poultry Raising. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1524.

#### Dairy

Making American Cheese On The Farm For Home Consumption. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1734.

Milkgoats. Farmers' Bullatin No. 920.

Making Butter On The Farm: Farmers' Bulletin No. 876.

Making and Using Cottage Cheese in the Home. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1451.

### Meats

Pork On The Farm: Killing, curing and canning. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1186.

Lamb and Mutton on the Farm. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1807.

Rabbitt Raising. Conservation Bulletin No. 25. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

## Food Preservation

Home Canning of Fruits, Vegetables, and Meats. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1186.

Homa-made Jellies, Jams and Preserves. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1800.

Drying Foods for Victory Meals. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1918.

Home-made Pickles and Relishes. 188R4. Bureau of Home Economics. (Mimeographed)

Community Foo? Preservation Centers. Miscellaneous Publication No. 472. Bureau of Home Economics.

